

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
CRICKLADE & WOOTTON BASSETT



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Senior Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1951

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of :—

CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year, 1951, on the state of the public health of the District together with the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

Apart from an outbreak of Measles, fortunately of a mild nature and in keeping with the increased incidence throughout the country, the District remained free from serious epidemics and the high standard of health was generally maintained. Two localized outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred and arose from contamination of the mid-day meal supplied by the Wootton Bassett School Meals Depot. The outbreaks were thoroughly investigated and were the subject of special reports to the Ministry of Health.

Details of Infectious Diseases notified will be found in the body of the Report and once again, it is gratifying to be able to record that no case of Diphtheria and only one case of Poliomyelitis (in a member of Her Majesty's Forces) occurred.

The Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer gives a valuable summary of a large amount of work carried out in a most efficient manner. In particular, mention should be made of the excellent progress in connection with Housing Schemes whereby this Council continues in the forefront of such work.

In conclusion I wish to record my appreciation and thanks for the wholehearted co-operation and assistance from my staff, and also from other departments of your Council.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. McELROY.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1952.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1951.

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**CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. R. S. McELROY,
B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.,
who is also Medical Officer of Health to the Highworth Rural District
Council, Assistant County Medical Officer and Assistant School
Medical Officer, Wiltshire County Council

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER

C. E. JAMES, C.S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods, M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

T. L. COX, C.S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods, M.S.I.A.

UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANT TO SANITARY INSPECTORS

S. MORELAND

RODENT OPERATOR

W. H. BUCKLAND

CLERICAL STAFF

MISS M. SIMPKINS

Miss E. M. Pocock, (appointed in conjunction with the Wiltshire
County Council and the Highworth Rural District Council).

Changes in Staff

During the year Dr. D. M. Martyn Jones, Medical Officer of
Health, relinquished his post to take up an appointment as Medical
Officer of Health, Isle of Man, and the vacancy thereby created was
filled by Dr. R. S. McElroy, who assumed the duties of the post on
1st February, 1952. Also, during the year Mr. Buckland replaced
Mr. Lewis as Rodent Operator and Miss M. Simpkins replaced Miss
Brown in the clerical staff.

Office Accommodation

By arrangement with the Wiltshire County Council and the
Highworth Rural District Council the Medical Officer of Health is
accommodated at the Offices of the last mentioned at 19, Bath Road,
Swindon, Wiltshire.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District	45,911 acres
Number of Parishes	14
Estimated Population (including service personnel)	15,060
Number of inhabited houses (permanent) ..	3,963
Rateable Value	£72,117
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£293

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	162	126	288
Illegitimate	9	6	15
Total number of live births ..	171	132	303

Birth Rate for the District	20.1
Comparative figure for England and Wales ..	15.5
Comparability Factor for the District	1.17

Still Births:

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of still births ..	1	2	3

Total number of Deaths in the Area	165
Local Death Rate per 1,000 population ..	10.9
Comparative figure for England and Wales ..	12.5
Comparability factor for the District	1.06

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ..	1	2	3

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ..	1	—	1

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e.

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age per
1,000 live births 19.6

Comparative figure for England and Wales 29.6

Causes of Deaths

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	—
Malignant neoplasms; stomach	1	2
lung, bronchus	1	—
breast	—	4
Malignant neoplasms, uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	9	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	14	10
Coronary disease, angina	15	12
Hypertension with heart disease	6	4
Other heart disease	6	6
Other circulatory disease	5	9
Influenza	3	4
Pneumonia	9	3
Bronchitis	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	5	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	3	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	1
Total, all causes	90	75

Deaths from Cancer during 1951

Age	Site				
	Lungs	Stomach	Breast	Other	Total
40-50 years ..	—	—	—	—	—
51-60 years ..	—	—	—	—	—
61-70 years ..	—	—	2	—	2
71-80 years ..	—	2	1	9	12
81-90 years ..	—	1	—	2	3
Total	—	3	3	11	17

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Facilities

The Swindon Area Pathological Laboratory of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board caters for the needs of the District in a very efficient manner.

Hospital Facilities

These are the responsibility of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

The main general hospitals are situated at Stratton St. Margaret (in the Highworth Rural District) and Swindon, which also provide accommodation for Maternity cases in a separate institution.

Infectious diseases are admitted to the Area Isolation Hospital, Swindon while the nearest Smallpox Hospital is located at Reading. Cases under the National Assistance Act, 1948, are admitted to Elm Court, Stratton St. Margaret.

Other Facilities

The arrangements for the following health services operating in the District are made by the County Health Committee :—

Care of expectant and nursing mothers, and young children;

Domiciliary Midwifery;

Health Visiting;

Home Nursing;

Arrangements for vaccination and immunization;

Ambulances and ambulance cars;

Domestic helps;

Arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act, for the prevention of illness; care and after care; and health education.

Mental Health Service.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases during 1951 as compared with 1949 and 1950.

Disease	1949	1950	1951
Scarlet Fever	4	29	12
Whooping Cough	21	21	15
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	154	12	126
Acute Pneumonia	6	3	3
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	1
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	2	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	54	3	94
Erysipelas	2	1	1
Malaria	—	—	—
Total	241	73	257

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

The distribution of cases in age groups and Parishes is shown in the following two tables.

PARISH	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis	Encephalitis	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Smallpox	Paratyphoid Fv.	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Malaria	Total
Ashton Keynes	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Braydon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad Town	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clyffe Pypard	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Cricklade	1	6	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
Latton	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Leigh	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Lydiard Millicent	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Lydiard Tregoze	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lynneham	2	2	—	14	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	26
Marston Meysey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Purton	1	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46
Tockenham	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Wootton Bassett	8	7	—	30	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	87	1	—	135
Total	12	15	—	126	3	1	—	4	1	—	—	—	94	1	—	257

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Unknown age	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	9	2	—	—	—	—	12
Whooping Cough ..	—	12	3	—	—	—	—	—	15
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	67	52	2	2	—	—	2	126
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	4
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrex. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	1	49	3	5	1	—	35	94
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	2	81	114	8	10	3	1	38	257

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

Scarlet Fever

Compared with 1950 when 29 cases were notified, the figure of 12 cases recorded shows a marked decrease.

Whooping Cough

A decrease was recorded

Diphtheria

As in 1950 no cases were notified.

Measles

Compared with 1950 when only 12 cases were recorded the disease assumed epidemic proportions with 126 notifications. It was of a mild nature with few complications.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Only one case (non-paralytic) (in a member of Her Majesty's Forces) was recorded.

Dysentery

Four cases of the Sonne type were recorded.

Paratyphoid Fever and Enteric Typhoid Fever

No cases recorded.

Food Poisoning

In the early part of the year two outbreaks of Food Poisoning totalling 87 cases occurred among members of the staff and children of three schools who had consumed the mid-day dinner prepared by Wootton Bassett School Meals Depot. Investigations showed the first outbreak to be of the toxin type arising from contamination of veal which, on culture yielded a heavy growth of *Paracolon* bacilli; this organism is not a member of the *Salmonella* Dysentery group but it is possible that multiplication in the food before consumption might have given rise to a short self-limiting attack of gastro-enteritis. The second outbreak was also of the toxin type and pathogenic organisms—*Staphylococcus Aureus* coag.pos. were isolated from samples of food consumed and from drips taken from the lids of food containers.

Also, a sterile rinse from these lids revealed similar organisms and measures to ensure proper cleansing of all utensils were taken.

Erysipelas

Only one case was recorded.

Tuberculosis

The following table sets forth the number of new cases for the period 1948-1951, from which it will be seen that an increase occurred during the year under review.

New Cases

Year	No. of cases
1951	15
1950	9
1949	12
1948	17

Distribution of new cases and deaths according to age and sex is as follows :—

Age	New cases Male	Male Deaths	New cases Female	Female Deaths	Total	
					New cases	Deaths
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ..	—	—	1	—	1	—
5-15 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 years ..	1	—	2	—	3	—
25-35 years ..	4	—	1	—	5	—
35-45 years ..	1	—	—	—	1	—
45-55 years ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
55-65 years ..	2	—	—	—	2	—
65 and over ..	—	—	2	—	2	—
Age unknown	—	—	1	—	1	—
Total ..	8	1	7	—	15	1

HOUSING OF TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS

During the year 4 cases were referred by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows :

Certificate No. 1. Sputum positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

Certificate No. 2. Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

Certificate No. 3. Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

The following is a summary of the cases dealt with during the year :

Type of case	No. cases referred	No. cases re-housed
Certificate No. 1 ..	3	3
Certificate No. 2 ..	1	—
Certificate No. 3 ..	—	—
Total	4	3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

This is carried out by General Practitioners and County Council Medical Officers in homes, nurseries, welfare centres and schools, and the following table gives details of the number of children (in two age groups) immunized during the year.

The percentage of children protected in the 0-4 years (inclusive) group increased from 47 to 53 compared with the previous year, while the percentage protected in the 5-14 years group increased to 100. In keeping with the figures throughout England and Wales the percentage of younger children immunized remains at a low level and is a cause of anxiety calling for intensification of efforts to overcome the unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Number of children up to 5 years of age who completed a full course of immunization during 1951	..	..	275
Number of children between 5-14 years	..	..	84
Re-inforcing injections administered	..	..	424

Total immunized child population at 31st December, 1952 :

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
24	171	170	192	197	996	857	2607

VACCINATION

Despite constant advice to parents and relatives at Infant Welfare Centres and elsewhere the number of children vaccinated remains at an unsatisfactory level. However, the figure of 40% of corrected live births protected is a marked increase on that of 12% for the preceding year. Nevertheless, the recent outbreaks in this country should help to dispel the sense of false security now only too prevalent.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47, Removal to Suitable Premises
of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

During the year several cases were investigated and dealt with, but it gives me pleasure to report that it was not found necessary to obtain a Court Order for the removal of any persons against their will from their homes.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR, 1951

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To : The Chairman and Members of the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1951—

HOUSING

Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year

(a) By Local Authority	52
(b) Private Enterprise	11

Inspection of Dwellings during the year

(i) Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts ..	35
(ii) Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts	7
(iii) No. of inspections made under P.H. & Housing Acts	173
(iv) Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	7
(v) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	29

Remedy of defects by Informal Action

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	25
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts)

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Acts, 1936	
(i) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(ii) Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
(i) Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	2
(ii) Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 Housing Act, 1936	
(i) Number of Demolition Orders made ..	5
(ii) Number of Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	—
(iii) Number of undertakings accepted	2
(iv) Number of undertakings completed	—

(d)	Proceedings under Section 25 & 26 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(e)	Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled, as result of premises having been made fit	Nil

Demolition Orders were made in respect of 5 unfit houses and undertakings given by the owner of 2 houses. Two tenants were re-housed in council houses, one tenant in a temporary dwelling, two tenants moved to other accommodation and one house was void when action was taken. Thus there remains only one family still to re-house.

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding

Number of overcrowding cases discovered in 1951 ..	4
Number of cases of overcrowding brought forward from 1950	11
Number of overcrowding cases abated during the year	5
Number of overcrowding cases unabated at the end of the year	10

The 5 overcrowding cases were abated by the Council re-housing three families and by two families moving out of the district.

It will be seen that the number of overcrowding cases remain nearly the same as a year ago. The overcrowding standard is the standard of the Housing Act, 1936, but in addition there are a number of instances where two or more families occupy one house, causing "bedroom deficiency," that is to say, there is an insufficient number of bedrooms to provide adequate sleeping arrangements for each family.

Housing Act, 1949

Only one application for an Improvement Grant was made under the Housing Act, 1949, and this was rejected by the Ministry.

Rural Housing Survey

On the 31st December, 1951, 870 houses still remained to be completed under this Survey. A very detailed survey of every house having a rateable value of £17, and under, is carried out. The extra time taken in making the survey so detailed, has, in my opinion, already proved to be justified. In a great many instances since this survey was commenced, information has quickly and readily been obtained in respect of a particular dwelling by reference to the Survey Record of that house. This information could otherwise only be obtained by a visit to the house.

Details of the Survey are as follows :—

(a) Number of houses to be surveyed	3217
(b) Number of houses inspected, measured and recorded during the year	330
(c) Total number of houses inspected, measured and recorded to 31st December, 1951	2347
(d) Number of houses measured but not yet inspected (not included in (b) or (c) above)	97

Categorisation of houses inspected

CATEGORY

1—481 (20.49% of the number inspected)	
2—525 (22.37% " " " ")	
3—887 (37.79% " " " ")	
4—209 (8.91% " " " ")	
5—245 (10.44% " " " ")	

CATEGORY

- 1—Satisfactory in all respects.
- 2—Minor defects.
- 3—Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.
- 4—Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing Act, 1949.
- 5—Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

Housing Applications

Although 50 council houses were built during the year there were 10 more applicants on December 31st, than there were on December 31st, 1950.

I have not kept a record of the number of interviews with persons who have called to see me in connection with their applications for tenancies of council houses, but the number must run into hundreds.

Visits are made to the accommodation of every applicant who resides in the district to verify the living conditions mentioned in the application.

No. of visits and enquiries re housing applications ..	216
--	-----

HOUSING APPLICATIONS TO DECEMBER 31st, 1951

PARISH	No. of Applicants		Total No. of Applicants	No. of Applicants who are over- crowded
	who are house- holders	who are in rooms		
Ashton Keynes	19	10	29	4
Braydon ..	—	—	—	
Broad Town ..	11	7	18	
Cricklade ..	62	22	84	
Clyffe Pypard ..	5	1	6	
Latton ..	6	3	9	
Leigh	5	6	11	
Lydiard Millicent	16	15	31	
Lydiard Tregoze	4	—	4	
Lyneham ..	20	15	35	
Marston Meysey	3	5	8	2
Purton	40	39	79	
Tockenham ..	3	1	4	
Wootton Bassett	100	86	186	4
Any Parish ..	1	1	2	
	295	211	506	10
No. on Dec. 31st. 1950	274	222	496	11

SIZES OF FAMILIES OF APPLICANTS

Man, Wife and						
No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	Over 5 Children
149	168	104	50	21	3	11
Percentage of the Total						
29.4	33.2	20.6	9.9	4.1	0.6	2.2

Provision of New Houses

A total of 63 houses were erected during the year, 11 of which were built by private enterprise. Houses were erected by the Local Authority at :—

	Traditional	Airey	Reema	Total
Lyneham	—	10	—	10
Purton	2	—	—	2
Wootton Bassett ..	24	—	14	38
Wootton Bassett (Old People's Bungalows)	2	—	—	2
	—	—	—	—
	28	10	14	52
	—	—	—	—

The Old People's Bungalows were two-bedroomed. There were two four-bedroomed houses but all the remainder had three bedrooms.

Lyneham houses were drained to a small sewage installation built to serve these new houses. The dwellings at Purton and Wootton Bassett were connected to existing sewers.

I set out below figures relating to the provision of council houses in the district. The total number of houses includes 155 Air Ministry Houses for R.A.F. personnel in Lyneham parish.

PARISHES	Total No. of houses	No. of Council Houses			% of houses owned by Local Authority
		Erected pre-war	Erected post-war	Total	
Ashton Keynes ..	263	18	14	32	12.2
Braydon	18	—	—	—	—
Broad Town	154	16	20	36	23.4
Clyffe Pypard ..	117	14	2	16	13.7
Cricklade	427	30	12	42	9.8
Latton	127	4	9	13	10.2
Leigh	89	10	14	24	27.0
Lydiard Millicent	247	30	6	36	14.6
Lydiard Tregoze	151	12	8	20	13.2
Lyneham	433	40	10	50	11.5
Marston Meysey	63	6	6	12	19.0
Purton	789	84	49	133	16.9
Tockenham	37	—	—	—	—
Wootton Bassett	1048	88	136	224	21.4
	3963	352	286	638	16.1

On December 31st, 1951, there was one council house to every 6 to 7 other houses (including Air Ministry houses) and to every 24 inhabitants. One post-war council house had been built for every 55 inhabitants (including R.A.F. personnel) of the district.

Temporary Dwellings

During the year the work of converting the disused army huts situate at Lydiard Park, Lydiard Tregoze, was completed by the Swindon Corporation and the number of temporary dwellings in the district has therefore increased.

A special allocation to the Council of Reema houses was made so that the tenants of the 11 huts at Manor Paddock, Wootton Bassett, could be re-housed, the huts being in such a condition that repairs were useless. All were re-housed and the huts were demolished.

On December 31st, 1951, the number of temporary dwellings were :—

Ashton Keynes	(Cove House Camp)	..	5
Cricklade	(Paul's Croft)	.. ..	2
Cricklade	(Blakehill)	.. ..	150
Lydiard Park	.. ..	.. ..	127
Wootton Bassett	(Manor Flats)	.. ..	6
<hr/>			
			290
<hr/>			

Of the Blakehill and Lydiard Park huts only 50 and 25 respectively, have tenants which are selected by the Council.

All huts at Blakehill have two bedrooms and those at Lydiard Park have one, two or three bedrooms. All of the huts at both sites have living rooms, kitchenettes, small bathrooms and internal W.C's.

The Ashton Keynes and the Paul's Croft huts are poor structurally. The former are not drained but the latter are connected to the sewer. It is proposed to re-house the tenants of these huts as soon as the opportunity arises.

The Wootton Bassett Manor Flats consist of accommodation provided for six families by alterations at The Manor House. Whilst the accommodation is structurally good, the fact that all tenants have to use a common kitchen is most inconvenient, although cooking arrangements are provided by the installation of six cooking stoves.

Number of visits re temporary dwellings .. 10

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Nuisances

No. of nuisances discovered	33
No. of nuisances abated	30
No. of inspections made for the purpose ..	156

Verminous Premises

Two houses were found to be infested with bugs. Treatment with D.D.T. smokes and block disinfestators was carried out and again after six weeks. The vermin were eradicated.

A rather heavy infestation by earwigs arose at six houses situate at The Rosary, Wootton Bassett, and was treated with D.D.T. smokes and "Knockdown" (D.D.T.) sprays. The houses were new and had been erected on virgin soil, which, in my opinion, accounted for earwig infestation.

No. of visits to verminous premises ..	18
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Tents, Vans and Sheds

There was a considerable increase in the number of licences issued to station and use moveable dwellings during the year. All the moveable dwellings were caravans, some of them being very nice in appearance and elaborately fitted out. A piped water supply was available for all caravans.

No. of visits to tents, vans and sheds ..	20
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Smoke Abatement

During the "flush" period, when increased quantities of milk were received at a Milk factory, trouble again arose owing to the emission of grit and smoke from the factory chimney stack. This trouble has been recurring over a number of years, and the Company have tried various appliances for arresting grit and ash, without satisfactory result. At the end of 1951, they were awaiting delivery of a certain type of valves to complete the installation of economisers which they hoped might solve the trouble. (The economisers were put into operation in February, 1952, but did not stop the emission of grit and ash).

Drainage and Sewerage

The under-mentioned parishes are without a proper sewerage system :—

Ashton Keynes
Braydon
Broad Town
Clyffe Pypard
Latton
Leigh
Lydiard Millicent
Lydiard Tregoze
Lyneham
Marston Meysey
Tockenham

Sewers serve the built up areas of the parishes of Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett. The sewers at Cricklade discharge to sewage wells situated at Westmill Lane, Fair View and Hatchetts. Sewage from Westmill Lane and Fair View sewage wells is pumped to the sewage well at Hatchetts. From there it is pumped to settling tanks, final disposal being by means of broad irrigation. The systems of sewage disposal at Purton and Wootton Bassett consist of detritus and settling tanks, filter beds, and humus tanks, the effluent discharging to streams.

There are small sewage installations serving new council house sites at Ashton Keynes, Broad Town, Leigh, Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoze, Lyneham and Marston Meysey.

Number of houses served by W.C.'s and draining to cesspits	507
Number of houses served by pail closets and draining to cesspits	461
Total number of houses draining to cesspits	968
Total number of houses draining to small sewage installations	70
Total number of houses connected to sewers	1661
Percentage of houses connected to sewers	43.62
Percentage of houses served by water closets and draining to cesspits	13.31
Percentage of houses draining to cesspits but having pail closets	12.11
Percentage of houses drained to cesspits	25.42
Percentage of houses drained to small sewage installations	1.84
Percentage of houses drained to sewers, small sewage installations and cesspits	70.88

(The above figures do not include Air Ministry houses and temporary dwellings).

Refuse Collection and Disposal

I am pleased to report a great improvement in the public cleansing service towards the end of the year. Early in the year approval was given to the purchase of an additional " Dennis " 10 cub. yd. refuse lorry so that a weekly collection of house refuse could be carried out throughout the whole of the district. The additional vehicle was received in June but owing to labour shortage in the area, it was impossible to obtain a driver and loader to man the lorry until November. On November 5th, the weekly collection of refuse from all houses in every parish was commenced. Before this date, a weekly collection of house refuse took place in the built-up parts of the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett, and from the remainder of the district a monthly collection of refuse, other than ashes, was made.

As happened in 1950, the shortage of labour caused difficulties, and at the end of the year I was very gratified to know that we had always managed to collect the refuse along the specified route on the specified day. It was only by offering a salvage bonus of 10/6 per week extra to normal wages that labour was obtained for the second lorry. On December 31st, 1951, there were two "Dennis" 10 cub. yd. refuse collection vehicles, two drivers, four refuse loaders, and one workman who was employed as a tip and salvage attendant and spare-hand refuse loader.

Until May 31st, there were only two refuse tips in use, one at Cricklade (Broad Leaze Old Canal) and one at Wootton Bassett, on land at the sewage works. In June an additional tip situate at The Pry (Old Canal) Purton, was brought into use. At the same time a new tip was commenced at Vasterne, Wootton Bassett to take the place of the one at the sewage works. The Council were fortunate in obtaining these new tipping sites as it has been exceedingly difficult to obtain land for this purpose, other than agricultural land or land to which access is well-nigh impossible. The great drawback with the refuse tips has been the fact that soil for covering purposes has been unattainable. Soil might have been purchased, but the cost made the purchase absolutely prohibitive.

Flies and other insects are kept in check by the spraying of refuse with a "tip dressing." The infestation of tips by rats is exceedingly small due to regular rat-baiting.

Number of visits re public cleansing 170

Salvage

There was a national appeal for waste paper, but owing to the lack of labour for carrying out salvage and baling, salvage collections were not undertaken until June. A trailer was attached to the refuse lorry and used for the purpose of waste paper collection. When the additional lorry was put on the road in November, a second trailer for use in the collection of waste paper, was purchased to be used with this lorry.

Details of sales of salvageable waste materials in 1951 are as follows :—

Waste Materials	Weight			Receipts		
	t.	c.	q.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper ..	21	14	0	382	8	8
Scrap iron	6	11	2	23	2	6
Non ferrous metals		1	2	6	15	0
Textiles		5	2	7	2	6
	28	12	2	419	8	8

The building which was erected for the purpose of sorting, baling, and storage of waste materials, has had to be used also for garaging the second refuse lorry, no other space being available. This has made working conditions rather cramped.

Number of visits re salvage 39

Refuse and Salvage—Collection and Disposal Costs

(Financial year ended 31st March, 1952)

Cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal	£4746	13	9
Receipts—refuse and salvage	£642	18	0
Cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal to General Rate Fund	£4103	15	9
Net cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal per habitable house (including temporary dwellings)		20/0.34	
Net cost of refuse and salvage collection and disposal per head of population		5/2.76	
Mileage for refuse lorries :—			
No. 1 lorry	7594		
No. 2 lorry	3393		
Running costs of refuse lorries per mile :—			
No. 1 lorry	1/3.27		
No. 2 lorry	1/4.86		
(So as to obtain a fair running cost, £100 has been charged as depreciation on each lorry)			
Miles per gallon :—			
No. 1 lorry	7.12		
No. 2 lorry	6.97		

The cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal has greatly increased for the financial year. This is due to four factors :—

- (a) A new lorry and trailer costing £1136 and an amount of £800 balance of purchase price of the other lorry, making a total amount of £1936, has been charged to cost of refuse collection. Hitherto the purchase price of vehicles has been written off over a period of ten years.
- (b) Owing to the extension of the refuse collection service there is the added cost of running an additional vehicle and additional men to carry out the work, 7 men being employed since November, 1951, against 3 men before that date.
- (c) The amount required for a normal week's wages on March 31st, 1951, was £17 4s. 6d., but the amount has risen to £42 13s. on March, 31st, 1952. There had also been rises in the rates of wages during the year of 20½% for drivers and 19½% for loaders. The total amount paid as wages increased by £934 over the previous year.

- (d) There has been a considerable increase in the cost of tyres and one vehicle had to be completely re-tired. £112 was expended on tyres.

Infectious Diseases

All patients suffering from infectious disease were isolated at home. A few cases of dysentery occurred during the year. Excretal specimens were obtained from all families for three days and submitted to the Area Pathologist. Precautions were taken whenever any person in contact with the patient was connected with the milk or food trade. These persons were transferred to other work by their employers and if there was any likelihood of danger to milk, the milk produced at those premises was pasteurised.

Number of visits made in connection with infectious disease and Poliomyelitis investigations	137
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Poliomyelitis Investigation

In April, and again in June, work was carried out in connection with an investigation into Poliomyelitis by the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London. Examination of drain and sewer swabs from a community free from any case of Poliomyelitis was desired, and the Blakehill Site of temporary dwellings was chosen. Plans of the drains and sewers were produced and the inspection chambers and sewer manholes were numbered. Altogether 60 swabs were inserted each time into these inspection chambers and manholes. The jars in which the swabs were collected carried the same numbers as the inspection chambers and manholes from which the swabs were withdrawn, the swabs having been allowed to remain in contact with the sewage for 48 hours. The jars were carefully packed and despatched forthwith to the Central Public Health Laboratory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938 AND 1944

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The Council are only concerned with the supervision of Milk distributors who are not producer-retailers, and their premises, provided the dairies are not situate on dairy farms. The above mentioned distributors must also register themselves and their dairies with the Local Authority.

No. of Milk Distributors on the Register	..	..	13
No. of Distributors Dairies on the Register	..	..	9
No. of inspections made under the Regulations	..	..	12

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dealers Licences issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	7
No. of supplementary licences issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations 1949

No. of Dealers Licences issued authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	1
No. of supplementary licences issued authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	2

Milk Sampling

20 samples of milk have been taken from retail milk purveyors on their rounds. All milks were submitted to the Analyst for biological examination and 15 for Methylene Blue Tests (Keeping quality). The Methylene Blue tests shewed 7 samples to be very satisfactory, 3 to be fairly satisfactory and 5 to be unsatisfactory. All the samples were found to be free from tubercle bacilli.

Methy- lene Blue tests	Satisfactory		Fairly Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory			
	Not reduced after		Decolourised at	Decolourised at			
	4½ hrs.	5½ hrs.	3½ hrs.	½ hr.	1 hr.	1½ hrs.	2 hrs.
15	3	4	3	2	1	1	1

Meat

There is a centralised slaughterhouse situate at Hook, in which animals, practically all calves, are brought for slaughter for human consumption from markets held at Swindon, Malmesbury, Devizes and Chippenham. Most of these veal carcasses are despatched to London, but a small number are sent to Swindon.

There was an increase of 514 in the number of animals killed in 1951, but the record of 100% inspection of all carcasses and offal, which has been carried out since the inception of the controlled slaughterhouse in 1940, was again maintained.

For the third consecutive year there was a decrease in the percentage of tubercular calves, and there was also a slight decrease in the percentage of animals affected by disease.

All cases of congenital tuberculosis are notified to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Surgeon, provided the market ticket is attached to the hide, and the hide of the tubercular calf is kept separate from the other hides. Unless the calf has passed through the hands of dealers, the Veterinary Surgeon is usually able to trace the dam and examines it for the presence of tuberculosis.

No. of visits to and inspections made at the slaughterhouse 285

No. of visits to and inspections made at shops and other premises	9
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Animals killed and Carcasses Examined

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
No. of animals killed ..	—	21929	43	25	21997
No. of carcasses examined	—	21929	43	25	21997

99.7 % of the animals slaughtered were calves.

Condemned Meat

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
Condemned for Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses	—	17	1	—	18
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	47	2	—	49
Total number of animals affected with Tuberculosis	—	64	3	—	67
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with Tuberculosis	—	0.29	0.01	—	0.30
Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses	—	62	2	2	66
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1047	20	16	1083
Total number of animals affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	—	1109	22	18	1149
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	—	5.04	0.10	0.08	5.22
Condemned for All Diseases					
Whole carcasses	—	79	3	2	84
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1094	22	16	1132
Total number of animals affected with disease ..	—	1173	25	18	1216
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with disease ..	—	5.33	0.11	0.08	5.52

Weights of Condemned Meat

	Condemned in slaughterhouse				Condemned in shops			
	T.	c.	q.	lbs.	T.	c.	q.	lbs.
Beef	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Veal	1	16	1	20	—	—	—	—
Pork and Bacon	—	3	2	2	—	—	—	7
Mutton and Lamb	—	1	3	16	—	—	—	—
Offal	1	—	—	19	—	—	—	—
	3	2	—	1	—	—	1	7

	Condemned for Tuberculosis				Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis			
	T.	c.	q.	lbs.	T.	c.	q.	lbs.
Beef	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Veal	—	8	3	24	1	7	1	24
Pork and Bacon	—	—	3	16	—	2	2	21
Mutton and Lamb	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	16
Offal	—	3	—	14	—	17	—	5
	—	12	3	26	2	9	1	10
Percentage of the total of condemned meat	20.83				79.17			

Tuberculosis in Calves

The table shows the details of the tubercular infection of calves killed in the centralised slaughterhouse since its inception. The percentage of calves affected with tuberculosis in 1951, was 0.29%, a decrease of 0.04% from 1950. It is interesting to compare this figure with the percentage of 0.72% in 1940, the year when centralised slaughtering commenced, and also with the highest percentage, 0.85 in 1941.

The position regarding the market numbers of calves for identification purposes was better than in previous years. The tickets had become detached from only three calves and the necessary information was given to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Surgeon in 14 instances, so that he might endeavour to trace the dams and examine them for the presence of tuberculosis.

Year	No. of calves killed	No. of tubercular calves	No. of calves affected with tuberculosis
1940	14095	102	0.72
1941	13588	116	0.85
1942	15190	104	0.68
1943	15293	90	0.59
1944	16702	82	0.49
1945	16985	101	0.60
1946	20231	95	0.47
1947	22002	86	0.39
1948	20184	91	0.45
1949	19313	68	0.35
1950	21397	71	0.33
1951	21929	64	0.29

Casualties

There was again a considerable increase in the number of animals brought to the slaughterhouse for "casualty killing." Of the total number of animals slaughtered, 0.94% were killed as casualties.

	Casualties killed			
Calves	137
Pigs	46
Sheep	24
				<hr/> 207 <hr/>

Slaughter of Animals Act

The number of licensed slaughtermen in the district was 19.

Knackers Yard

The only knackers yard in the district has not operated at any time during the year.

Other Foods

During the year condemnations of the following tins of unsound food were made and the food was voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

	Tins
Meat Products	19
Peas and Beans	3
Tomatoes	3
Vegetables.. ..	3
Various fruits	136
Crab meat	1
Evaporated milk	6
	<hr/>
	171
	<hr/>

Ice Cream

There were 22 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream and 2 premises for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream. Most persons sold the pre-packed ice cream.

At the one premise, ice cream is made for retail sale only therefrom, but it is despatched to a number of shops throughout the country from the other manufacturer. Ice cream was not manufactured during January and February.

The premises occupied by the two ice cream manufacturers were visited regularly throughout the period when ice cream was in production, and samples were taken and submitted for provisional grading purposes.

Manufacturer	Provisional Grading			
	1	2	3	4
A	8	1	—	—
Percentage ..	89	11	—	—
B	4	—	—	1
Percentage ..	80	—	—	20

Food Premises

All the bakehouses in the district were inspected during the year and excepting two, at which limewashing was needed, were found to be generally satisfactory.

A new drainage system was installed and a new preparing room built at one fish frying premise. There are 4 fried fish shops and all are satisfactory.

Whilst I cannot report that all food shops are up to the standard required by the Act and Food Byelaws, improvements are being made.

There are 28 premises which are required to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the preparation and manufacture of food for sale for human consumption. (These premises do not include bakehouses). All of these premises are satisfactory.

No. of visits to ice cream premises	..	33
„ „ „ „ bakehouses	.. ..	14
„ „ „ „ fried fish shops	..	8
„ „ „ „ food preparing premises		17
„ „ „ „ grocers and fruiterers		1
		—
Total visits to food premises	..	73
		—

Licensed Houses

A number of licensed houses have been provided with hot water supplies and new wash-up sinks. The sanitary accommodation at some of these premises has been improved, in some instances completely new drainage systems having been installed.

Food Poisoning

In January, 1951, investigations were made into two outbreaks of food poisoning amongst school children, the first affecting school children attending two schools, and the second amongst children at three schools. Samples of food, and excretal samples from school children, drivers of meal vans, and school kitchen staff, were submitted for analyses. In connection with the second outbreak, samples of drips and sterile rinses of food container lids were analysed and were found to be contaminated by staphylococcus aureus.

In August a suspected case of food poisoning in a girl was reported. Excretal specimens from the girl and her parents were taken and Salmonella-typhimurium was isolated from the stools of the girl and also her mother, who was apparently well in health. Specimens were taken for some time. The mother was soon free but the daughter continued to harbour the organism for some time, but was ultimately found to be free from disease.

In October, 3 adults and 2 children living in one house were notified as suffering from suspected food poisoning. Prompt notification by the local doctor resulted in a sample of the food being obtained and found to be contaminated by staphylococci.

A couple of isolated cases of suspected food poisoning were notified, but enquiries and specimens revealed nothing.

No. of visits and enquiries re food poisoning	..	99
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FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Types of Premises

There was a decrease of 2 in the number of premises registered under the Factories Act. The types of premises are as follows :—

Aircraft Maintenance shops	2
Bakehouses	13
Builders and Carpenters	10
Blacksmiths shops	2
Brickworks	1
Condensed milk manufactory	1
Dental manufactory	1
Dried milk manufactory	1
Egg Grading Depot	1
Engineering shops	5
Gas works	2
Glove works	1
Grass Drying plants	1
Ice cream factory	1
Joinery works	1
Laundries	1
Local Authority workshop	1
Motor and cycle repair shops	17
Printers	1
Potters and weavers	1
Rope works	1
Saw mills	3
Sausage makers	1
Waterworks	2
	71
	—

Inspections

- (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities :—

No. on register	15
No. of inspections	11
No. of written notices	—
No. of occupiers prosecuted	—

- (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority :—

No. on register	56
No. of inspections	32
No. of written notices	2
No. of occupiers prosecuted	—

Defects

Cases in which defects were found :—

			Found	Remedied
Sanitary conveniences				
Want of cleanliness	..	..	1	—
insufficient	..	..	1	—
unsuitable or defective	..	..	2	2
not separated for sexes	..	..	1	1

Outworkers

Wearing apparel—making of :—

No. of outworkers in August list	..	26
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WATER SUPPLIES

There has been no shortage of water during the year, but the limit has been reached in the amount of water delivered to the reservoir from Ashton Keynes, as the pumps are working at their utmost capacity.

The water obtained at Ashton Keynes is of very high quality but the Thornhill supply is definitely unsatisfactory.

Occasionally the analysis of the Clyffe Pypard supply shews the water to be “suspicious.”

The Broad Town supply is of poor quality.

The water from every supply is chlorinated.

None of the waters have a plumbo-solvent action.

Two farms which were served from private supplies were connected to the Broad Town public supply by means of copper tubing. Soon afterwards it was found that the interior surfaces of tanks and kettles were coloured green and the Analyst's reports on samples taken at the farms were that they contained an objectionable amount of copper in solution. He considered that this was due to the large amount of free carbon dioxide in the water. This was the first time that copper tubing had been used on this water supply.

Sources

A bore hole situate at Ashton Keynes supplies most of the water consumed in the area. The bore hole has a depth of 300 feet and is constructed as follows. It is lined with mild steel tube 27 inches in diameter for a depth of 88 feet. There is a C.I. lining 18 inches in diameter for a depth of 173 feet and space between the two linings is filled with cement grout. Below 173 feet the diameter is reduced to 15 inches and the bore is unlined.

There are three additional sources of supply owned by the Council but the yields are fairly small and during the summer months are very small. These sources are situate at Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town (The late United Dairies Supply and the Thornhill Supply).

There is a small private water supply at Clyffe Pypard to which a small number of houses and farms are connected.

Storage

Storage of water is provided throughout the district as detailed below :—

Gallons

500,000 reservoir at Hook

60,000 reservoir at Cricklade

35,000 underground tanks at Clyffe Pypard

20,000 elevated tank at Ashton Keynes

50,000 elevated tank at Wootton Bassett

20,000 elevated tank at Purton (Pavenhill)

17,000 underground tank at Purton (The Heading)

12,000 elevated tank at Bradenstoke

10,000 underground tank at Broad Town

724,000

Distribution

The principal reservoir is situate at Hook and water is pumped thereto through a 10 inch main from Ashton Keynes borehole. Water from this borehole is also pumped to the Ashton Keynes storage tank, and to Cricklade reservoir through a 3 inch main. From Hook reservoir water gravitates to the storage tanks at Purton and Wootton Bassett and at the R.A.F. Station, Lyneham. The tank at Bradenstoke is fed from the R.A.F. tank. It is possible to supply the Clyffe Pypard tank from Hook reservoir and by using the rising main as a supply main, this reservoir can also feed back to Ashton Keynes.

Water gravitates from the reservoirs and storage tanks through mains varying in size from 8 inches to 1½ inches.

Water Sampling

Samples of water were taken periodically throughout the year from all public supplies.

39 samples were taken, 32 from public supplies and 7 from private supplies. The results are as follows:—

	Bacteriological		Chemical	
	Fit for drinking purposes	Unfit for drinking purposes	Fit for drinking purposes	Unfit for drinking purposes
Taken from public supplies at				
Ashton Keynes	6	—	3	—
Broad Town ..	3	2	1	—
		(suspicious)		
Broad Town (Thornhill)	11			
Clyffe Pypard ..	5	1		
		(suspicious)		
	25	3	4	—
		(suspicious)		
Taken from private supplies in the parish of				
Ashton Keynes		3		
Broad Town ..	—	—		2
Clyffe Pypard ..		1		
Purton ..		1		
	—	5	—	
	25	8	4	2

Two of the Ashton Keynes and the Clyffe Pypard samples taken from private supplies were waters from a new well serving a proposed new farmhouse at Ashton Keynes and from an existing well at Clyffe Pypard. As there were no water mains serving these positions, domestic chlorinating plants were installed.

Houses and Population supplied from Public Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to houses (not including temporary dwellings)		Water supplied by means of a standpipe (not including temporary dwellings)	
	No. of houses	Estimated population	No. of houses	Estimated population
Ashton Keynes	220	812		
Braydon ..	13	48		
Broad Town ..	115	424		
Clyffe Pypard ..	66	244		
Cricklade ..	401	1480		
Latton ..	69	255		
Leigh ..	86	317		
Lydiard Millicent	231	852		
Lydiard Tregoze	97	358		
Lyneham ..	361	1332		
Marston Meysey	41	151		
Purton ..	714	2635		
Tockenham ..	37	136		
Wootton Bassett	999	3686	11	41
	3450	12730	11	41

Houses and Population supplied from Private Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to houses (not including temporary dwellings)		Water supplied by means of a standpipe (not including temporary dwellings)	
	No. of houses	Estimated population	No. of houses	Estimated population
Broad Town ..	5	18		
Clyffe Pypard ..	29	107		
	34	125		

Temporary Dwellings and Population supplied from Public Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to temporary dwellings		Water supplied by means of standpipes on the sites	
	No. of temporary dwellings	Estimated population	No. of temporary dwellings	Estimated population
Ashton Keynes			5	18
Cricklade ..	152	561		
Lydiard Park ..	127	469		
Wootton Bassett	6	22		
	285	1052	5	18

Totals, Percentages, etc. re Water Supplies to Dwellings

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

(i) Into or on to premises	..	..	..	3450
(ii) By means of standpipe	..	..	..	11

3461

ESTIMATED POPULATION SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS
(INCLUDING POPULATION OF TEMPORARY DWELLINGS)

(i) Into or on to premises	..	..	..	13,782
(ii) By means of standpipes	..	..	..	59

13,841

Total number of houses supplied from water mains (public and private)	..	..	..	..	3,495
Total estimated population , including population of temporary dwellings, supplied from water mains (public and private)	..	..	..	..	13,966
Percentage of houses supplied from public water mains	..	..	..	..	87.78
Percentage of houses supplied from private water mains	..	..	..	..	0.86
Percentage of houses supplied from water mains	..	..	..	..	88.64
Percentage of estimated population supplied from public water mains	..	..	..	..	88.20
Percentage of the estimated population supplied from private water mains	..	..	..	..	0.79
Percentage of the estimated population supplied from water mains	..	..	..	..	88.99

No. of visits re water supplies :—

Public supplies	27
Private supplies	24

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Mr. W. K. Lewis, the Council's Rodent Operator, left his employment in August. Mr. W. H. Buckland was appointed in his stead and has given every satisfaction.

A systematic search for rats went on throughout the year and notifications of infestations of lands and premises were also received from the occupiers thereof. I am of opinion that the good work carried out by the destruction of rats and mice in this district fully justifies the cost of the employment of a full time Rodent Operator, only half of whose salary is charged to local rates.

The service to occupiers of premises other than business premises is free, but occupiers of business premises are charged cost of materials and labour plus 10% administration charges plus travelling expenses.

The sewers and refuse tips are treated and I am pleased to report that there was no infestation of the Cricklade and Purton sewers and only a light infestation of Wootton Bassett sewers. Infestation at refuse tips was prevented by baiting the tips as soon as rats were found "working" the tips.

It has not been necessary to take legal action against any occupier and in one instance only was it necessary to send a written intimation requesting the occupier to take steps to clear his premises.

Meetings are held periodically between officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and delegates and Sanitary Inspectors of Local Authorities in North Wilts. Difficulties in carrying out rat and mice destruction, the interpretation of circulars and orders and various other matters are discussed, and these meetings are most helpful to Sanitary Inspectors who are responsible for carrying out the requirements of the Act.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling House	Agricultural	Business	
No. of properties inspected					
(a) after notification ..	1	29	2	7	39
(b) by search	8	1605	83	28	1724
Total properties inspected	9	1634	85	35	1763
No. of properties infested	4	112	10	10	136
No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	4	112	10	10	136

Total number of visits made under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 2496

BUILDING LICENSING

Unless it is necessary for plans to be produced, applications for licences for carrying out repairs to private houses are dealt with by my department

No. of building licences issued	..	..	..	9
Estimated amount of licenced work	..	..	..	£2429
No. of visits made	..	..	..	12

TABULAR SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR, 1951

Water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Fried fish shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Tents, Vans and sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Refuse collection	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Refuse disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Damage by Pests Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	2496
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Salvage	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
Temporary Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Building licensing	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Housing (Inspection and repairs)	..	..	..	..	..	..	173
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Rural Housing Survey	..	..	..	..	..	..	334
Miscellaneous Housing visits (enquiries etc. re housing applications)	..	..	..	..	..	..	216
Infectious diseases and Poliomyelitis investigation	..	..	..	..	..	..	137
Meat inspection :—							
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	285
Other premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Grocers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Ice cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Food preparing premises	17
Milk sampling	20
Food poisoning enquiries	99
Miscellaneous visits	4
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